United Nations A/C.1/54/L.48

General Assembly

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22 October 1999

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76 (s)
General and complete disarmament: convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

South Africa*: draft resolution

Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994, 50/70 F of 12 December 1995, 51/45 C of 10 December 1996, 52/38 F of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 AA of 4 December 1998,

Recalling also that, there being a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1] adopted by consensus at the first special session devoted to disarmament, which included the Declaration, Programme of Action and Machinery for disarmament,

Bearing in mind also the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Taking note of paragraph 145 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[2] which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community

* South Africa on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

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and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

Taking note also of the report of the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission and of the fact that no consensus was reached on the item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament",[3]

Desiring to build upon the substantive exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament during the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission,

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the field of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Noting that, with the recent accomplishments made by the international community in the field of weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional arms, the following years would be opportune for the international community to start the process of reviewing the state of affairs in the entire field of disarmament and arms control in the post-cold-war era,

1. *Decides*, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States of the United Nations on the objectives, agenda and timing of the special session and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

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[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

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General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 77 (e)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

South Africa*: draft resolution

United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/78 F of 4 December 1998 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa,[1] the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific[2] and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean[3] and welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Director of the Centre for Africa and the Director of the Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,[4]

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

[1] A/54/332.

[2] A/54/255.

[3] A/54/310.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

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Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities as well as posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to the understanding and cooperation among the States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Noting that in paragraph 146 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, the heads of State or Government welcomed the decision adopted by the General Assembly on maintaining and revitalizing the three regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,[5]

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the principles and purposes of the United Nations;

3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region and those that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their programmes of activities and implementation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

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[5] A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 84
Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

South Africa*: draft decision

Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

The General Assembly decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 77
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Peru*: draft resolution

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/37 F of 9 December 1991, 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 of 12 December 1995, 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and 53/78 F of 4 December 1998,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[1] which considers that the Regional Centre can make an important contribution to the exchange of information on peace, disarmament and development issues among Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry and various sectors of civil society in the region,

Noting that security and disarmament issues have always been recognized as transcendent topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Also welcoming the revitalization of the Centre, the efforts made by the Government of Peru to that end and the appointment of the Director of the Centre by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

[1] A/54/310.

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Keeping in mind the important role the Centre can play in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

Expresses its appreciation to the Centre for organizing the international workshop on the theme "Illicit trafficking in small arms: Latin American and Caribbean issues", successfully held in Lima from 23 to 25 June 1999,

Bearing in mind the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

Recognizing the need to provide to the Regional Centres of the United Nations sufficient financial resources for the planning and implementation of their programmes of activities,

1. *Reiterates* its strong support of the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level in order to increase peace, stability, security and development among its Member States;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the reinitiation of the activities of the Regional Centre, with headquarters in Lima;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support and financial contributions received, which are essential for its continued operation;

4. *Urges* all the States of the region to make greater use of the potential which the Centre has to meet the current challenges facing the international community with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations regarding peace, disarmament and development;

5. *Appeals* to Member States, particularly those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as to governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to strengthen its programme of activities and the implementation thereof;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, so that it may carry out its programme of activities and attain better results;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".

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General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 80
Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/81 of 4 December 1998 and previous resolutions referring to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[1]

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),[1] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions of the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[1] and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),[1] which entered into force on 2 December 1983,

Also recalling with satisfaction the adoption by the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional

[1] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

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Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, on 13 October 1995 of the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),[2] and on 3 May 1996 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),[3]

Recalling that the States Parties at the Review Conference declared their commitment to keeping the provisions of Protocol II under review in order to ensure that the concerns regarding the weapons it covers are addressed, and that they would encourage efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to address all problems of landmines,

Recalling also the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Welcoming the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as the ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and to the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),

Noting that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols,

Welcoming the decision adopted by the Review Conference in its Final Declaration[4] on 3 May 1996 to convene a Review Conference no later than 2001;

Noting that, in accordance with article 13 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), a conference of States parties to that Protocol shall be held annually for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues relating to the Protocol,

Noting that the provisional rules of procedure of the first annual conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol II provide for the invitation of States not party to the Protocol, the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as interested non-governmental organizations, to take part in the conference,

I

1. *Expresses satisfaction* that the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) entered into force on 30 July 1998, commends it to all States with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date and calls, in particular, upon all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

2. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 3 December 1998 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[3] and calls, in particular, upon all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

3. *Notes* the convening, from 15 to 17 December 1999, of the first annual conference of High Contracting Parties to the Protocol, in accordance with article 13 of

[2] CCW/CONF I/16 (Part I), annex A.

[3] Ibid., annex B.

[4] Ibid., annex C.

amended Protocol II, and welcomes in this context the successful preparatory meeting held by States parties on 25 and 26 May 1999;

II

1. *Calls upon* all States parties that have not yet done so to notify the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, of their consent to be bound by the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV), and by the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II);

2. *Welcomes* the convening, from 15 to 17 December 1999, of the first annual conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol II, in accordance with article 13 thereof;

3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to Protocol II to address at the conference, *inter alia*, the issue of holding the second annual conference in 2000;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the second annual conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol II and for its preparatory committee;

III

1. *Recalls* the decision of States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects to convene the next review conference no later than 2001, preceded by the preparatory committee;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the second Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention and its preparatory committee;

3. *Urgently calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention and its Protocols, and in particular to amended Protocol II, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately adherence to these instruments will be universal;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform it periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accession to the Convention and its Protocols;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".